



PRESS RELEASE

USAID Provides \$50,000 to Address the Humanitarian Assistance Needs

In response to the events that occurred on May 13, 2005, in Andijan City, Uzbekistan, that caused 530 Uzbek citizens to flee to Kyrgyzstan, U.S. Ambassador Stephen Young requested that emergency funds in the amount of \$50,000 be provided by USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) to be used to address the immediate humanitarian assistance needs of the individuals affected by the crises. OFDA is the office within the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) responsible for providing humanitarian assistance in response to international disasters.

USAID has signed a grant agreement with the Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED) to be the implementing partner. Already, funds in the amount of \$ 4, 512 have been used to purchase food items, rudimentary building materials, pans and tools. This will be the first of weekly shipments of food and tents to the camp. Through USAID representatives, Citihope International and the Jalal-Abad Branch of the Congress of Women have already provided medicines and clothing to the camp as well as to the Suzak Raion Hospital. The Coalition Airbase will also provide living accommodations in the form of donated tents to the camp.

USAID, ACTED, the Kyrgyz Ministry of Emergency Situations, the Kyrgyz Border Guards, and the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) are all working together to provide safe and appropriate accommodations for the camp inhabitants.

USAID and ACTED have a long history of collaboration using OFDA funds in the region. USAID is implementing approximately 50 projects in Kyrgyzstan with an annual budget in 2005 of approximately \$22,000,000 in the areas of Democracy and Media, Health and Education, Energy and Water, and Enterprise and Finance. The Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED) is an apolitical and non-confessional international relief agency. ACTED is currently implementing a project in Kyrgyzstan called Promoting Cross Border Dialogue and Local Governance in Jalalabat, the main goal of which is to create a more favorable environment for local governance initiatives and to simulate cross border and inter ethnic cooperation.

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